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LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress dedicated to making the Federal Government a better partner with our communities, our business leaders, and our individual corporations to make sure that our communities are more livable, where our families are safe, healthy and more economically secure.

For over a century now, organized labor has been a champion of these same goals for families by defending the right to organize and represent themselves by being very active in public policy discussions and the enactment of protective legislation. Last week, in Las Vegas, the national AFL-CIO added their strong voice to achieving their goals for America's working families by promoting the principles of livable communities. It noted that the problems of both society and their members are compounded when our communities are abandoned. Cities are hollowed out by sprawl and the consequences of unmanaged growth. It is harder to travel, find decent affordable housing, it is harder for children to breathe, and even workers to organize.

Their important resolution was advanced by progressive unions like the United Food and Commercial Workers, the Amalgamated Transit Union, the good work of Jobs First, with their staff member, Greg LeRoy.

I would note three important provisions in that resolution where they point out; whereas sprawling development on urban fringes creates new jobs beyond public transit grids, leaving consumers with no choice about how to get to work and undermines transit ridership; and whereas many other central labor bodies and State federations have long advocated for policies now collectively called "smart growth," such as affordable housing, better public transit, school rehabilitation, and the reclamation of brownfields; now, therefore be it resolved, that the AFL-CIO authorize and directs its leadership to actively engage in the emerging public and political debates surrounding urban sprawl and smart growth, asserting labor's rightful role in the national debate about the future of America's cities for the benefit of all working families. Powerful words from a powerful organization dedicated to promoting America's families.

I would note the special leadership of the regional labor leaders, people like Don Turner, the President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, that has been active with the Metropolitan Me-

tropolis 2020, an organization in Metropolitan Chicago that brings together the community organizing for their future; John Dalrymple, the executive secretary-treasurer of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council, where organized labor has been a vital force in Silicon Valley's efforts to come to grips with the livability of that fast growing area; and John Ryan, the executive secretary of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, where in Cleveland they have been part of a coalition with the Catholic Archdiocese of Cleveland, reaching out to communities around Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, these are leaders of vision, people who know that smart growth is not the same as no growth; leaders who know that dumb growth can be too expensive and choke long-term prosperity; and that in working together business, citizens, and organized labor, we can truly make our communities more livable where our families are safe, healthy, and more economically secure.

HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express some very serious concerns about events that happened yesterday not in Afghanistan, where we are fixated by the CNN optic of what is going on there in Tora Bora and elsewhere, but about events in a friendly neighboring nearby country, democratic country, Haiti.

News reports indicate that a group of individuals attacked the Haitian National Police in the early morning hours. The government of Haiti official report claims that this was some type of attempted coup against President Aristide. There is no particular evidence to support this claim, however.

We are certain of some of the aftermath by some of the initial reports we are receiving from the area. President Aristide has unleashed mobs of his political cronies against U.S. and French official installations and against the homes and offices of numerous political opposition leaders. In fact, those homes and offices were, in several instances, burned to the ground.

Also, the mobs were directed against various independent radio stations, which were forcibly shut down. And there were apparently orchestrated riots staged in cities and towns all across Haiti. Most tragically, these mobs burned to death, in a very brutal way, a number of innocent people.

Given President Aristide's lack of commitment to democratic norms we have been watching through the years, I believe he owes the international community today, and now a detailed explanation of exactly what did happen yesterday in Haiti. I call on the United States Government, the friends of

Haiti, and the Organization of the American States to seek thorough, complete and verifiable information on the following issues, at a minimum:

First, whether yesterday's attack on the national palace was deliberately staged by the Aristide government, as many think; secondly, that given the officially sanctioned attacks on the U.S. Consulate, these are our people, our property in Haiti, and the French embassy's Cultural Institute, whether Haiti intends to abide by its prior commitments to protect diplomatic personnel and facilities. This is at a minimum. And, third, given Haiti's legal agreement to various U.N. and OAS human rights treaties, whether the Aristide government will cease its attack on Haiti's independent media and democratic political parties and their leaders.

Unfortunately, we have been asking for this for a number of years now and we have not been seeing much cooperation from the Aristide government. In fact, I think most observers would fairly say there has been a very noticeable and significant retreat from democracy in that country, tragically.

One of the immediate consequences for my State of Florida and for the United States is a problem we have been talking about with regard to immigration troubles and terrorism, and that is our porous borders. We are now confronted with people fleeing Haiti, as has been their want in the past, refugees exposing themselves to the treachery of the Florida straits at this time of year, coming over in unsafe boating conditions, and trying to reach the safety of the shores of the United States of America.

It is a tough proposition for us on how to treat these people humanely and not encourage more people from coming. I think most Members will recall we have had floods of people in the past, so many that we have had to create camps in Guantanamo before, and I am afraid we are on the verge of another immigrant problem of that magnitude.

I think that it is very important that we look at Haiti very directly as part of a failed legacy of the Clinton foreign policy program. I am sorry to say that. There are many of us at the time that said that the policy was misguided; that it would not work; that the kinds of sanctions the Clinton administration put against Haiti would backfire, and, indeed, they did. Haiti has not had much leadership, and what it has had seems to have been away from democracy. I think it is a spectacular failure of foreign policy.

I think that the misery level in Haiti is spectacular also, regrettably. And I think that the brutality we saw yesterday, again in the mob violence, was brutality that is spectacular and inhuman and very, very regrettable.

□ 1245

I think we have a spectacle on our hands that needs to be explained in

what did happen yesterday, and in the events surrounding the further repression of democracy and the apparent actions that the Aristide Government is claiming that it now must take from yesterday's events in order to stamp out the last few remnants of decency and democracy and civilization of that wonderful country. It is time for accountability, and I think the world needs to know that.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TAX CUTS GO TO LARGEST CORPORATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we remember following the horrific events of September 11, several gas stations around the country raised their prices to \$4, \$5 and \$6 a gallon. Most called that war profiteering, but the overwhelming majority of Americans came together. They gave blood and put out their flags. Many went to New York and the Pentagon to help. Thousands volunteered in their communities. School children collected pennies, nickels and dimes to send to the victims and families.

Something else happened in Washington, D.C., not war profiteering in the simple sense of raising gas prices, but a more sophisticated kind of political profiteering. This Congress, lobbied hard by the President and the Republican leadership, first of all gave a huge multi-billion dollar bailout to the airlines, requiring nothing from the airline executives, providing nothing for airline security, doing nothing for airline safety. When many tried to include help in this bill for the 100,000 airline workers who had lost their jobs, Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) told us now is not the time, that extending government assistance to laid off workers "was not commensurate with the American spirit."

Then President Bush and this Congress gave billions of dollars in tax cuts and subsidies and rebates to the largest corporations in the United States. A tax refund to IBM, for example, literally in the form of a check from the Federal Government for \$1.4 billion, \$1 billion to Ford, \$900 million to General Motors, hundreds of millions of dollars to American and United Airlines, as if the bailout was not enough, and the list goes on and on and on.

More recently, with unemployment creeping up to the highest 2-month increase we have seen in 21 years, with the anxiety that people have about their jobs, with LTV and Republic Technologies steelworkers and other steel industry workers facing company bankruptcies, with hundreds of thousands of people losing their jobs, this

Congress, at the behest of the Republican leadership, the President and America's largest corporations, this Congress passed something called Trade Promotion Authority, which simply will send more of our jobs to Latin America and more of our jobs to developing countries around the world.

My dad used to talk about World War II and shared sacrifice, about war bonds and WAVES and WACs, about victory gardens and scrap metal drives. But this Republican Congress and this President do not know much about shared sacrifice. Instead, they demand tax cuts for IBM, General Electric and American Airlines, while doing absolutely nothing for 100,000 laid-off airline workers. Instead of shared sacrifice, this Republican Congress and this President demand of Congress that we pass Trade Promotion Authority while doing little to provide public investments for broken-down schools, while doing little to help starved public health infrastructure, while doing little to help our woefully inadequate rail system.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, if the President and the Republican Congress called on us, like FDR did in World War II, called on the Congress and the American people for shared sacrifice. Imagine if the President called on young, patriotic Americans to enlist in the Army or the Peace Corps, to enlist in the Navy or AmeriCorps, to enlist in the Air Force, or teach for America. That is what waving the American flag is all about.

Imagine if the President said to his friends in the drug industry, no more special favors. We are not going to allow drug companies to charge American consumers and America's elderly more for prescription drugs than anywhere else in the world. Imagine. That is what waving the American flag is all about.

Imagine if the President called on America to volunteer for Meals on Wheels or clean up their neighborhoods or to tutor children who are having difficulty keeping up. Imagine. That is what waving the American flag is all about.

Imagine if the President would say to his friends in the oil business, we are going to wean ourselves off Middle Eastern oil. We are going to find a way to help Americans conserve and get better gas mileage. Imagine. That is what waving the American flag is all about.

Instead of this Republican President and Republican leadership in this House bestowing tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans, imagine if we helped those who needed it the most, laid-off workers, people without health insurance, children sentenced to inferior schools. Instead of the Republican President and the leadership in this Congress bestowing tax cuts on the largest corporations in the world in this country, imagine instead if they appealed to the best in America. Imagine.

PASS ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, while Congress fiddles with the details of an economic stimulus package, the dreams of many American families burn. I rise today to urge my colleagues to move an economic stimulus package through the Congress this week.

I believe serving an agricultural and industrial district of eastern Indiana, that Americans and Hoosiers are hurting at this especially poignant time of the year. Since arriving in Congress in March, I have maintained that for my district and citizens we have been in a recession since the first of the year. Before summer of this year, nearly 3,000 Hoosiers lost their jobs in my district alone, and the events of September 11 have only exacerbated the problem.

I submit today, as someone who has in fact lost a job over the Christmas holidays myself, that it is especially burdensome on families to do so, and it is an especially grievous state of affairs. Jim and Eileen Decker of Goehring's Mens Shop in Anderson, Indiana, are closing the door of their Main Street store after 55 years of business due to downturns in the local Anderson economy. Delco Remy America, which is located in Anderson, has announced over 200 layoffs. J.J. and Jodi Leever and their sons, Noah and Hunter, are part of the many families who will be gathered around the tree one week from today, not just filled with the joy of the moment, but filled with the uncertainty these economic times bring.

Yet we in Congress today continue to languish, continue to debate one with another, sometimes in demagogic tones and sometimes in legitimate ways, about whether or not we can pass an economic stimulus package this week. On behalf of J.J. and Jodi Leever, and the many families of eastern Indiana, I urge my colleagues to act, but not as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) just spoke moments ago, not simply in a way that is focused on the wage earner who finds themselves in dire circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, we must have, if it is to be an economic stimulus package, it must benefit not just the wage earner but the wage payer; and we must no longer tolerate the anti-capitalistic rhetoric that says that it is appropriate for leaders in this institution only to assist the wage earner once he finds himself out of gainful employment, and never to come alongside the wage payer, never to provide assistance to businesses small and large, and permit them to bring those families back to work.

Mr. Speaker, it is accurate to say the best welfare program in the world is a good job. The Republican leadership